



## The Lion Guard activity session

**Age Range:** Nursery/Early Years

**Time:** 20-30 minutes

**Education Links:** Understanding the World, Expressive Arts & Design, Communication & Language, Literacy, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development.

*The Lion Guard continues the tradition of epic storytelling from The Lion King films. Focusing on the adventures of Simba's second child, Kion, and his Lion Guard team: the Pride Land's fiercest, bravest, strongest, fastest and keenest of sight. The Lion Guard's adventures range from rescuing tiny animals, to defending the Pride Lands against raging floodwaters; from taking a stand against cruel crocodiles, to defending zebras from encroaching hyenas. The members of the Lion Guard are always looking out for each other and other creatures.*



### Activity

This activity will support: minibeasts, nature, heroism and adventure. Photocopy the Bunga (honey badger) headband, or the Kion (lion) animal mask within this booklet\*, then assign each child an animal character. Research these animals from Africa, and others that live in different parts of the world. Can the children recognise a lion, cheetah, hyena, hippo, egret and honey badger? What are their habitats like and how are they different to ours? What do they think it would be like living in Pride Rock?

Ask each child to act out their character, how does it move? Discuss the key characteristics that each of the animal has (such as bravest, strongest, fastest etc.), and how their skills help them accomplish different tasks. How is each child in the class unique from each other? Ask each child to describe what they are good at.



\*You can download and print more copies of all activities, from the Disney Junior section on the [iChild.co.uk](http://iChild.co.uk) website.

## Further activities

- Ask the children what it means to be brave. If you were a lion, would you have to be brave every day? Do you have to be brave to go on adventures?
- Sing along to the theme tune of The Lion Guard, as a class. Find some other animal songs that the children can sing along to. Introduce some musical instruments for the children to play i.e. drums, tambourines and maracas.
- Using the Kion face mask provided, the children can put on a short play or dance as an animal team, set in the Pride Lands. See if they can move and roar like a lion! You can also use the Bunga headband provided, during role play.
- Create a minibeast checklist and take the children outside, either in a garden or on a nature walk in the local park. Can the children find any of the minibeasts on the sheet and tick them off as they find them? Talk about what else they are observing outside including plants, trees and other animals and collect some items to bring back with them.
- Back in the setting, put some green and brown material and twigs, stones, leaves and flowers the children have collected, into a tray. Using 3D plastic bugs, or pictures of bugs, add these to your minibeasts habitat tray. You could extend this activity by creating a messy play tray, using plastic bugs and jelly, or a sensory tray with sand or water.
- Discuss the concept of 'The Circle of Life' in nature, and how each animal plays a part in this balance.
- Show the children where Africa is on a map and discuss the varied landscape in the Serengeti. Which animals would you find near a watering hole/lake, in tree tops, or on the vast plains?
- Award the children with a sticker, once they have completed this Lion Guard activity session.

